HIS MAIESTIES SPEACH IN THE Vpper Houſe of Parliament,

On Munday the 26. of March, 1621.

LONDON
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BRITISH MUSEUM

His Maiesties
Speach in Parliament.

MY Lords: the laſt time I came hither, my errand was to informe you (as well as my memory could ſerue mee, of things ſo long paſſed) of the verity of my proceedings, and the cautions vſed by me in the paſſing of thoſe Patents, which are now in queſtion before you; to the effect, that they might not bee abuſed in the execution: and this I did by way of declaration. But now I am come (vnderſtanding the time of your cenſure to draw neere) to expreſſe my readineſſe to put in execu-

tion (which is the life of the Law) those things, which yee are to sentence (for euen the Law it selfe is a dead letter without execution) for which office God hath appointed me in these Kingdomes. And though I assure my selfe, that my former behauiour, in all the course of my life, hath made mee well knowne for a iust King; yet in this speciall case I thought fit to expresse my owne intentions, out of my owne mouth, for punishment of things complained of. The first proofe whereof I haue giuen by the diligent search I caused to bee made after the person of Sr. *Giles Mompesson*, who though hee were fled, yet my Proclamation pursued him instantly: and as I was earnest in that, so will I be, to see your Sentence against him put in execution.

Two reasons mooue mee to bee earnest in the execution of what yee are to Sentence at this time: First, that

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dutie I owe to God, who hath made me a King, and tyed mee to the care of gouernement, by that politike mariage betwixt me and my people. For I doe assure you in the heart of an honest man, and by the faith of a Christian King (which both ye and all the world know me to be) had these things beene complained of to me before the Parliament, I would haue done the office of a iust King, and out of Parliament haue punished them as seuerely, and peraduenture more, then ye now intend to doe.

But now that they are discouered to me in Parliament, I shall be as ready in this way, as I should haue beene in the other. For (I confesse) I am ashamed (these things prouing so, as they are generally reported to bee) that it was not my good fortune to be the only Author of the reformation and punishment of them, by some ordinary Courts of Iustice. Neuertheless, since these things

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are now diſcouered by Parliament, which before I knew not of, nor could ſo well be diſcouered otherwiſe, in regard of that repreſentatiue body of the Kingdome, which comes from all parts of the Countrey: I will be neuer a whit the ſlower to doe my part for the execution. For, as many of you that are heere haue heard me often ſay, ſo I will ſtill ſay: So precious vnto me is the publike good, that no priuate perſon whatſoeuer, were he neuer ſo deere vnto me, ſhall be ſo reſpected by me, by many degrees, as the publike good, not onely of the whole Common-wealth, but euen of any particular Corporation that is a member of it: and I hope, that ye, my Lords, will doe me that right, to publiſh to my people this my heart and purpoſe.

The ſecond reaſon is, that I intend not to derogate or infringe any of the Liberties or Priuiledges of this Houſe,

but

but rather to fortifie and ſtrengthen them. For neuer any King hath done ſo much for the Nobilitie of England, as I haue done, and will euer bee ready to doe. And whatſoeuer I ſhall now ſay or deliuer vnto you as my thought, yet when I haue ſayd what I thinke, I will afterwards freely leaue the iudgement wholly to your Houſe. I know ye will doe nothing, but what the like hath beene done before: and I pray you be not iealous, that I will abridge you in any thing that hath beene vſed. For whatſoeuer the precedents in times of good gouernement can warrant, I will allow. For I acknowledge this to bee the ſupreame Court of Iuſtice, wherein I am euer preſent by repreſentation. And in this yee may bee the better ſatisfied by my owne preſence comming diuers times amongſt you: neither can I giue you any greater aſſurance or better pledge of this my purpoſe, then that

are now discouered by Parliament, which before I knew not of, nor could so well be discouered otherwise, in regard of that representatiue body of the Kingdome, which comes from all parts of the Countrey: I will be neuer a whit the slower to doe my part for the execution. For, as many of you that are heere haue heard me often say, so I will still say: So precious vnto me is the publike good, that no priuate person whatsoeuer, were he neuer so deere vnto me, shall be so respected by me, by many degrees, as the publike good, not onely of the whole Common-wealth, but euen of any particular Corporation that is a member of it: and I hope, that ye, my Lords, will doe me that right, to publish to my people this my heart and purpose.

The second reason is, that I intend not to derogate or infringe any of the Liberties or Priuiledges of this House,

but

but rather to fortifie and ſtrengthen them. For neuer any King hath done ſo much for the Nobilitie of England, as I haue done, and will euer bee ready to doe. And whatſoeuer I ſhall now ſay or deliuer vnto you as my thought, yet when I haue ſayd what I thinke, I will afterwards freely leaue the iudgement wholly to your Houſe. I know ye will doe nothing, but what the like hath beene done before: and I pray you be not iealous, that I will abridge you in any thing that hath beene vſed. For whatſoeuer the precedents in times of good gouernement can warrant, I will allow. For I acknowledge this to bee the ſupreame Court of Iuſtice, wherein I am euer preſent by repreſentation. And in this yee may bee the better ſatisfied by my owne preſence comming diuers times amongſt you: neither can I giue you any greater aſſurance, or better pledge of this my purpoſe, then that

I haue done you the honour, to ſet my only Sonne among you, and hope that yee with him ſhall haue the meanes to make this the happieſt Parliament, that euer was in England.

This I profeſſe, and take comfort in, that the Houſe of Commons at this time haue ſhewed greater loue, and vſed me with more reſpect in all their proceedings, then euer any Houſe of Commons haue heeretofore done to mee, or (I thinke) to any of my Predeceſſors. As for this Houſe of yours, I haue alwayes found it reſpectiue to me, and accordingly doe I, and euer did fauour you, as yee well deſerued. And I hope, it will bee accounted a happineſſe for you, that my Sonne doeth now ſit amongſt you, who when it ſhall pleaſe God, to ſet him in my place, will then remember, that he was once a Member of your Houſe, and ſo bee bound to maintaine all your lawfull priuiledges,

and like the better of you all the dayes of his life. But because the world at this time talkes so much of bribes, I haue iust cause to feare, the whole body of this House hath bribed him to bee a good instrument for you vpon all occasions: hee doeth so good offices in all his reports to me, both for the House in generall, and euery one of you in particular.

And the like I may say of one that sittes there (*Buckingham*) he hath beene so ready vpon all occasions to do good offices, both for the House in generall, and euery member thereof in particular. One proofe thereof, I hope my Lo. of *Arundell* hath alreadie witnessed vnto you, in his report made vnto you of my answer, touching the priuiledges of the Nobilitie, how earnestly he spake vnto me in that matter.

Now, my Lords, the time drawes neere of your recesse: whether forma-

litle will leaue you time for proceeding now to Sentence against all, or any of the persons now in question, I know not. But for my part, since both Houses haue dealt so louingly and freelie with me, in giuing me, as a free gift, two Subsidies, in a more louing maner, then hath beene giuen to any King before, and so accepted by mee; and since I cannot yet retribute by a generall Pardon, which hath by forme vsually beene reserued to the end of a Parliament: the least I can doe (which I can forbeare no longer) is to do something in present, for the ease and good of my people.

Three Patents at this time haue bene complained of, and thought great grieuances:

1. That of the Innes, and hosteries.
2. That of the Alehouses.
3. That of gold and siluer thread.

My purpose is to strike them all dead,

dead, and (that time may not bee loſt) I will haue it done preſently.

That concerning the Alehouſes, I would haue to be left to the managing of the Iuſtices of peace, as before.

That of gold and ſiluer thread was moſt vilely executed, both for wrongs done to mens perſons, as alſo for abuſe in the ſtuffe; for it was a kinde of falſe coyne. I haue already freed the perſons that were in priſon: I will now alſo damne the Patent: And this may ſeeme in ſtead of a Pardon. All theſe three I will haue recalled by Proclamation, and wiſh you to aduiſe of the fitteſt forme for that purpoſe.

I heare alſo, that there is another Bill amongſt you againſt Informers: I deſire you, my Lords, that as ye tender my honour, and the good of my people, yee will put that Bill to an end ſo ſoone as ye can, and at your next meeting to make it one of your firſt works.

For I haue already ſhewed my diſlike of that kinde of people openly in Star-chamber, and it will bee the greateſt eaſe both to mee, and all thoſe that are neere about me at Court, that may be. For I remember, that ſince the beginning of this Parliament, *Buckingham* hath told me, he neuer found ſuch quiet and reſt, as in this time of Parliament, from Proiectors and Informers, who at other times miſerably vexed him at all houres.

And now I confeſſe, that when I looked before vpon the face of the gouernment, I thought (as euery man would haue done) that the people were neuer ſo happie as in my time. For euen as at diuers times I haue looked vpon many of my Coppices, riding about them, and they appeared on the outſide very thicke, and well growen vnto me: but when I entred into the midſt of them, I found them all bitten within, and full

full of plaines and bare ſpots, like an apple or peare, faire and ſmoothe without, but when ye cleaue it aſunder, yee finde it rotten at the heart: euen ſo this Kingdome, the externall gouernment being as good as euer it was, and I am ſure as learned Iudges as euer it had (and I hope, as honeſt) adminiſtring iuſtice within it; and for peace, both at home and abroade, I may truely ſay, more ſetled, and longer laſting, then euer any before, together with as great plenty as euer: ſo as it was to bee thought, that euery man might ſit in ſafety vnder his owne vine, and his own figge-tree: Yet I am aſhamed, and it makes my haire ſtand vpright, to conſider, how in this time my people haue beene vexed, and polled by the vile execution of Proiects, Patents, Billes of Conformity, and ſuch like, which, beſides the trouble of my people, haue more exhauſted their purſes, then Subſidies

ſidies would haue done.

Now, my Lords, before I go hence, ſince God hath made mee the great Iudge of this Land vnder him: and that I muſt anſwer for the iuſtice of the ſame: I will therefore (according to my place) remember you of ſome things, though I would not teach you. For no mans knowledge can bee ſo good, but their memories will bee the better to be refreſhed. And now becauſe yee are comming to giue Iudgement, all which mooues from the King, that you may the better proceed, take into your care two things: Firſt, to doe *Bonum*, Secondly, next to doe it *Benè*. I call *Bonum*, when all is well prooued, whereupon ye iudge, for then ye builde vpon a ſure foundation; And by *Benè* I vnderſtand, that ye proceed with all formalitie and legalitie: wherein you haue fit occaſion to aduiſe with the Iudges, who are to aſſiſt you with their opini-

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ons in caſes of that nature, and woe be to them, if they aduiſe you not well. So the ground being good, and the forme orderly, it will prooue a courſe, fitting this high Court of Parliament.

In Sentence ye are to obſerue two parts: Firſt, to recollect that which is worthy of iudging and cenſuring: And ſecondly to proceed againſt theſe, as againſt ſuch like crimes properlie. Wee doubt there will bee many matters before you, ſome complained of out of paſſion, and ſome out of iuſt cauſe of grieuance. Weigh both; but bee not caried away with the impertinent diſcourſes of them, that name aſwell innocent men, as guiltie. Let your Iudgements onely take hold of the guiltie: proceede iudiciallie, and ſpare none where yee finde iuſt cauſe to puniſh. But let your proceedings be according to law: and remember, that lawes haue not their eies in their neckes, but in

their foreheads. For the morall reaſon of the puniſhment of vices in all kingdomes and common-wealthes is, becauſe of the breach of lawes ſtanding in force, for none can bee puniſhed for breach of Lawes by predeſtination, before they be made.

There is yet one particular, which I am to remember you of. I heare that Sir *Henry Yeluerton* (who is now in the Tower, vpon a Sentence giuen in the Starchaber againſt him, for deceiuing my truſt) is touched concerning a warrant dormant, which he made while he was my Atturney: the which my Lo. Treaſurer heere, refuſed to ſet his hand vnto, like an honeſt man, when it was brought vnto him. I proteſt, I neuer heard of this warrant dormant before, and I hold it as odious a matter, as any is before you: and if, for reſpect to me, ye haue forborne to meddle with him in examination, becauſe hee is my priſoner,

ſoner, I doe now heere freely remit him vnto you, and put him into your hands.

And this is all I haue to ſay vnto you, at this time; wiſhing you to proceede iuſtly and noblie, according to the orders of your Houſe: and I pray God to bleſſe you: and yee may aſſure your ſelues of my aſſiſtance; wiſhing that what I haue ſaid this day amongſt you, may bee entred into the Records of this Houſe.

FINIS.

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